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1. In Communist China, when persons are arrested as suspected political offenders, inquiries usually produce no information on them. For instance, a Shanghai resident was arrested in North China in 1949 on unspecified charges and detained for five months, during which time nothing was heard of him. Even inquiries by Shanghai officials were answered with excuses and orders not to interfere. When subsequently released he was warned to state only that he had been a guest of the government.
 2. Arrest without evidence is commonplace in China, even in the cases of high officials with Party affiliation. In 1948, when WU Te-feng (吳德峰), alias WU Cheng-fang (吳正芳), was a house guest in Peiping of LI K'e-mung (李克農), Communist Minister of Social Affairs, the length of WU's visit suggested that he was under house arrest, a possibility that surprised no one.
 3. In some cases however, an arrestee's whereabouts can be determined by his family or friends through good connections. For example, in February 1950, when a person accused of being a defector to the Nationalists was arrested in Mukden, one of his friends was arrested on suspicion only. The friend's brother was soon told that the suspect was well, was not politically involved and would be released upon completion of the investigation of his accused associate. Family and friends of the suspect were impressed by the unusually prompt report, but they still had to wait four months for his release.

25X1A [REDACTED] LI K'ie-hung is now Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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25X1A [REDACTED] HU had not actually been arrested.

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

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